

REMARKS

The Office action indicates that a restriction to one of the following claim groups is required: (I) claims 1-6, 8-10, and 31; (II) claims 11-16; (III) claims 17 and 19-25; and (IV) claims 26-30 and 32. Group I is directed to method for energy management in a robotic device, Group II is directed to a method of docking a robotic device, Group III is directed to an autonomous system comprising a base station, Group IV is directed to a method and system for charging a battery of a mobile device.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for granting Applicants' undersigned attorney the brief telephonic interview held on December 19, 2006. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the Applicants' belief that there would be no burden on the Examiner to allow the claims identified in Groups I and III for the reasons discussed in more detail below. Applicants submit that this Response serves as the Applicants' Statement of the Substance of the Interview in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b).

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, claim Group III, as represented by independent claim 17 and dependent claims 19-25, directed to an autonomous system comprising a base station. Specifically, with regard to claims 1 and 17, divided now into Groups I and III, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that there will be no serious burden on the Examiner to continue examination of both Groups I and III. In the first Office action dated January 30, 2006, all thirty originally-filed claims in the application were searched and examined. The Examiner indicated in that paper that "[c]laims 4, 7, 8, 10, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but *would be allowable if rewritten* in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Office action, January 30, 2006, 10 (emphasis added). Accordingly, Applicants amended claim 1 to include the

subject matter of claim 7 (and included argument as to why this amendment was patentable over the prior art), and amended claim 17 to include the subject matter of claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Group I and III are patentable in their present form, in accordance with the direction provided in the first Office action. Imposition of a restriction requirement at this juncture regarding these claims is neither required nor efficient. Accordingly, Allowance of these claims is invited.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement, at least with regard to Groups I and III, be reconsidered and withdrawn, and claims 1, 17, and all claims depending therefrom be allowed.

CONCLUSION

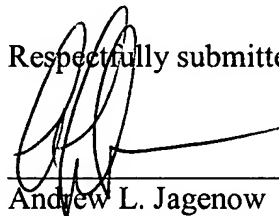
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, at least with regards to Groups I and III, and allowance of at least claims 1-6, 8-10, 17, 19-25, and 31 in due course. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any outstanding issues.

Date: December 29, 2006
Reg. No.: 51,842
USPTO Customer No. 051414

Tel.: (617) 570-1905
Fax: (617) 523-1231

LIBA/1752899.1

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew L. Jagenow
Attorney for Applicants
Goodwin Procter LLP
Exchange Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02109